

VZCZCXRO7124
PP RUEHPA
DE RUEHCO #0990 2851348
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 121348Z OCT 06 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8877
INFO RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0956

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 000990

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/28/2016
TAGS: [OFDP](#) [CVIS](#) [KCOR](#) [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [BN](#)
SUBJECT: BENIN: WHEREABOUTS OF CHANTAL DE SOUZA IDOHOU

Classified By: Pol/Econ Officer Daniel E. Hall for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) Please see action request in Paragraph 6.

12. (C) On September 28 LTC Alassane BOURANDI, Director of Military Intelligence appointed by President Yayi, requested a meeting with Poloff. Bourandi began by asking if it were possible for the embassy to determine the whereabouts and international travel of a Beninese citizen in the United States and track that individual's movements.

13. (C) When queried by Poloff, Bourandi said the person in question is Ms. Chantal IDOHOU (nee de Souza; a.k.a. Chantal DE SOUZA and Chantal DE SOUZA IDOHOU), the wife of Benin's former Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Mr. Bodehousse Simon IDOHOU (who served as Benin's UN Ambassador from August 2005 to July 2006). Bourandi said that, although DE SOUZA IDOHOU is not currently charged with any specific crime, his office is interested in knowing her whereabouts because she amassed a large fortune under the previous government of Matthieu KEREKOU. Poloff said he would pass on the information and provide any substantive response.

14. (C) Bio background on Chantal De Souza: Chantal DE SOUZA IDOHOU was born in Porto Novo, Benin on July 17, 1963 and was rumored to be former President Kerekou's mistress. Indisputably, she was one of Kerekou's cronies and wielded a great deal of power while Kerekou was in power, particularly in the final months of his presidency. On August 10, 2005 Post issued a G-1 diplomatic visa valid for 60 months to Chantal DE SOUZA IDOHOU in the name of "Laure Justine Chantal DE SOUZA IDOHOU" in diplomatic passport 03BD08696 (issued August 8, 2005; expires August 7, 2008). Bourandi and the embassy are not aware whether the subject holds dual nationality, but deem it unlikely. (NOTE: Chantal de Souza Idohou should not be confused with Benin's current First Lady, Jean Chantal de Souza YAYI. END NOTE.)

15. (C) Bio background on Col. Bourandi: Bourandi was named Director of Military Intelligence in April shortly after President Yayi's inauguration. Previously, he served as the Beninese Armed Forces' liaison officer for the ACOTA program, and served with MONUC as an observer of peacekeeping operations. Bourandi speaks English well, and is a former IMET student who studied both at Lackland AFB and at Fort Huachuca.

16. (C) Action Request: Post requests Department provide any available information on Ms. De Souza Idohou's whereabouts and guidance in responding to this request for assistance.
HOLTZAPPLE